

Highland School District #203
Board Work Study Session
Highland District Office
March 2, 2020, 7:00 a.m.

The March 2, 2020 Board Work Study Session convened at 7:20 am. Present were Board Members David Barnes, Lupita Flores, and Cindy Reed; Superintendent Mark Anderson, and Recording Secretary Julie Notman. Board member Carlos López was Absent.

3- STOP School Violence Grant: Mark explained that the Selah School District is trying for two different grants that address school violence. One is for a prevention program and the other is for threat assessment. The grants include the Selah, Highland and Naches school districts, the Selah and Tieton police departments, and the Yakima County Sheriff's Department. The main focus of both grants, if awarded, would be trainings in prevention and threat assessment, developing Hope Squad and Positive Action programs, and participation in the Interagency Advisory Committee.

6-April Work Study Date Discussion: The April work study falls on April 13 which is a snow make-up/no school day so it will be moved to Tuesday, April 14.

2- Facilities Update: Mark: We need to decide what to do with the old art room and will have extended discussion at the next work study. Art teacher Teresa Brooks used some of her budget money to purchase a storage shed, now located outside the CTE building and will move all of the art supplies from the old art room into it. We will continue to discuss options for the old space and eventually, when things are more settled, hold a public forum for public input as we consider changes, including the 3rd/6th grade shift, and using the remaining bond money.

1-Staffing Update: Mark: Adjustments in staff include Teresa Long moving to a .8 FTE starting next year and Linda Manske retiring. The Student Services department needs more support due to the excessive amount of paperwork required for special programs.

5-2020-2021 HSD Instructional Calendar: Mark: The calendar committee created two calendar options which will be voted on this Wednesday. Either is an acceptable option for the district.

Board Chair Nikki Keller joined the meeting at 7:35 a.m.

4-Federal Program Restructure: Mark: The district hasn't changed how things are done in Special Education and student intervention for 20, 30 years yet our student clientele has changed significantly. In seeking a new model, a lot of time has been spent in researching the options and determining a model that will better support student success academically, emotionally and behaviorally, and be sustainable financially over the long term.

MWC Principal Mindy Schultz, Interim Director of Student Services Kirsten Lenz, Special Programs Support Specialist Courtney Sund, and Director of Business Francis Badu joined the meeting at 7:40 a.m.

With the use of a PowerPoint, Mindy explained of MTSS-Multi-Tiered System Support. Approximately 80% of students are in Tier 1, 15% in Tier 2 and 5% in Tier 3. Tier 1 students are basically on point with academics and behavior, Tier 2 may be behind in academics and/or have some behavioral difficulties, and Tier 3 students are those that need intensive support, they are not necessarily those with an IEP or 504 Plan. She explained the need for meaningful assessments

and how to successfully use the information to make an impactful instructional change that will truly make a difference for the student.

Courtney addressed the social/emotional aspect MTSS and the need to build the ability of teachers and paras to recognize the social/emotion needs of students and interact with them accordingly. She will work to provide parent trainings, work with the counselors to support them and provide Restorative Justice training. Mark shared that the teachers have indicated that their number one concern is the social/emotional/behavioral side of students.

Kirsten shared a federal program budget overview, the focus/purpose of each grant area and how it is allocated. She stressed there is a lot of compliance management. The poverty rate of our community has gone down, which has negatively affected state funding yet the free/reduced rate of the families in our district is high. Mark complimented Francis and Kirsten for their excellent work of making sure we are in compliance with all of the grant requirements. Change is needed to improve education and address the needs of our students and this new model will do that. There are still many logistics to work out but the board expressed full support of it so Mark will share the restructuring plan with the staff and they will move forward with implementing it.

Discussion about social media, intercession/tutoring during vacation/off season, 3rd/6th shift and start time changes for upper grade levels.

Mindy, Kirsten, Courtney and Francis left the meeting at 9:20 a.m.

Further discussion about titles, time & effort records, staffing, principal interviews.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 9:47 a.m.

Chair

Secretary